

Whereas Father Ignacio Martin-Baró, aged 44, was the vice rector of the UCA, a leading analyst of national and regional affairs, the founder and director of the respected polling organization, the Public Opinion Institute, former dean of students, dean of the psychology department, an internationally-renowned pioneer in the field of social psychology, and pastor of the rural community of Jayaque;

Whereas Father Segundo Montes, aged 56, was dean of the department of social sciences, a sociology professor at the UCA, and the founder and director of the Human Rights Institute at the UCA, who did extensive work on Salvadoran refugees in the United States during the period of the Salvadoran conflict, including providing documentation and advice to Members of Congress on refugee issues;

Whereas Father Amando López, aged 53, was a philosophy and theology professor at the UCA, was the former director of the Jesuit seminary in San Salvador, and served as pastor of the Tierra Virgen community in Soyapango, a poor neighborhood in the periphery of San Salvador;

Whereas Father Juan Ramon Moreno, aged 56, was a professor of theology at the UCA, a former novice-master for the Jesuits, and a tireless pastoral worker and spiritual guide;

Whereas Father Joaquín López y López, aged 71, was one of the creators of the UCA and the founder, organizer, and director of Fe y Alegria (Faith and Joy), an organization to address the lack of education in El Salvador, which opened 30 educational centers in marginalized communities throughout El Salvador where 48,000 people received vocational training and education;

Whereas Julia Elba Ramos, aged 42, was the cook and housekeeper for the Jesuit seminarians at the UCA and the wife of Obdulio Lozano, the UCA gardener and groundskeeper;

Whereas Celina Mariset Ramos, aged 16, had finished her first year of high school at the José Damian Villacorta Institute in Santa Tecla, El Salvador and was staying with her mother the night of November 15, 1989;

Whereas the 6 Jesuit priests dedicated their lives to advancing education in El Salvador, protecting and promoting human rights and the end of conflict, and identifying and addressing the economic and social problems that affected the majority of the Salvadoran population;

Whereas the 6 Jesuit priests, as faculty and administrators at the UCA, educated many students throughout the 1970s and 1980s, students who subsequently became Salvadoran government, political, and civil society leaders, and thus helped facilitate communication, dialogue, and negotiations, even during the turbulent years of the armed conflict;

Whereas these 6 priests and 2 women joined the more than 75,000 noncombatants who perished during the Salvadoran civil war;

Whereas on December 6, 1989, Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas Foley appointed the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador consisting of 19 Members of the House of Representatives and chaired by Representative John Joseph Moakley of Boston, Massachusetts, to monitor the Salvadoran government's investigation into the murders of the Jesuit priests and 2 women and to look into related issues involving respect for human rights and judicial reform in El Salvador;

Whereas the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador found that members of the high command of the Salvadoran military were responsible for ordering the murder of the Jesuits and 2 women and for obstructing the subsequent investigation into the crimes;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on the Truth for El Salvador (the "Truth Commission") was established under terms of the January 1992 Peace Accords that ended El Salvador's 12 years of war and was charged to investigate and report to the Salvadoran people on human rights crimes committed by all sides during the course of the war;

Whereas on March 15, 1993, the Truth Commission confirmed the findings of the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador;

Whereas on September 28, 1991, a Salvadoran jury found 2 Salvadoran military officers guilty of the murders, including Salvadoran Army Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, the first time in Salvadoran history in which high-ranking military officers were convicted in a Salvadoran court of law of human rights crimes;

Whereas the UCA remains dedicated to advancing and expanding educational opportunity and providing the highest quality of academic excellence in its studies and courses and maintains a commitment to human rights and social justice;

Whereas the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, which represent many of the highest quality academic communities in the Nation, have maintained a sense of solidarity with the UCA and the people of El Salvador and have annually observed the November 16th anniversary of the martyred Jesuits and women;

Whereas in the United States, in El Salvador, and around the world, university programs, academic and scholarly institutes, libraries, research centers, pastoral programs, spiritual centers, and programs dedicated to educational achievement, social justice, human rights, and alleviating poverty have been dedicated in the names of the Jesuit martyrs;

Whereas the international and Salvadoran outcry in response to the deaths of the 6 Jesuits and 2 women and the subsequent investigations into this crime served as a catalyst for negotiations and contributed to the signing of the 1992 Peace Accords, which have allowed the people and the Government of El Salvador to achieve significant progress in creating and strengthening democratic political, economic, and social institutions; and

Whereas November 16, 2009, marks the 20th anniversary of the deaths of the 8 spiritual, courageous, and generous priests, educators, and laywomen: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the lives and work of Father Ignacio Ellacuría, Father Ignacio Martin-Baró, Father Segundo Montes, Father Amando López, Father Juan Ramon Moreno, Father Joaquín López y López, Julia Elba Ramos, and Celina Mariset Ramos;

(2) extends sympathy to the families, friends, colleagues, and religious communities of the 6 Jesuit priests and 2 laywomen;

(3) recognizes the continuing academic, spiritual, and social contributions of the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas ("UCA") in San Salvador, El Salvador;

(4) commends the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States for their solidarity with the UCA and annual remembrances of the Jesuit martyrs;

(5) continues to find inspiration in the lives and work of the Jesuit martyrs;

(6) remembers the seminal reports by Representative John Joseph Moakley and the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador in investigating the murders of the 6 priests and 2 laywomen;

(7) acknowledges the role played by the Speaker's Task Force on El Salvador, Representative John Joseph Moakley, the Jesuit leadership of the UCA, and the Salvadoran judicial investigation and convictions in ad-

vancing negotiations to end the war, such that the deaths of the Jesuit martyrs and laywomen contributed directly to achieving the peace to which they had dedicated their lives;

(8) calls upon the people of the United States, academic institutions, and religious congregations to participate in local, national, and international events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the martyrdom of the 6 Jesuit priests and 2 laywomen;

(9) recognizes that, while significant progress has been made during the post-war period, social and economic hardships persist among many sectors of Salvadoran society; and

(10) calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal departments and agencies to support and collaborate with the Government of El Salvador and other public, private, nongovernmental, and religious organizations in efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and to promote educational opportunity, human rights, the rule of law, and social equity for the people of El Salvador.

SENATE RESOLUTION 322—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAQ

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 322

Whereas threats against the smallest religious minorities in Iraq jeopardize the future of Iraq as a diverse, pluralistic, and free society;

Whereas according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, there are grave threats to religious freedom in Iraq, particularly for the smallest, most vulnerable religious minorities in Iraq, including Chaldeans, Syriacs, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeans, Mandeans, and Yazidis;

Whereas the February 2009 Country Report on Human Rights issued by the Department of State identifies on-going "misappropriation of official authority by sectarian, criminal, and extremist groups" as among the significant and continuing human rights problems in Iraq;

Whereas in recent years, there have been alarming numbers of religiously-motivated killings, abductions, beatings, rapes, threats, intimidation, forced conversions, marriages, and displacement from homes and businesses, and attacks on religious leaders, pilgrims, and holy sites, in Iraq, with the smallest religious minorities in Iraq having been among the most vulnerable, although Iraqis from many religious communities, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, have suffered in this violence;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom continues to recommend that the President designate Iraq as a "country of particular concern", or CPC, under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, because of the ongoing, severe abuses of religious freedom in Iraq;

Whereas the Assyrian International News Agency reports that 59 churches have been bombed in Iraq between June 2004 and July 2009;

Whereas persecution and violence in Iraq have extended to church leaders as well, such as the March 2008 kidnap for ransom and

killing of 65-year old Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho;

Whereas members of small religious minority communities in Iraq do not have militia or tribal structures to defend them, do not receive adequate official protection, and are legally, politically, and economically marginalized;

Whereas control of ethnically and religiously mixed areas, including the Nineveh and Kirkuk governorates, is disputed between the Kurdistan regional government and the Government of Iraq, and Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, Yazidis, Shabak, and Turkomen are caught in the middle of this struggle for control and have been targeted for abuses and discrimination as a result;

Whereas governments in the region report that approximately 2,400,000 refugees and asylum seekers have fled Iraq since 2003;

Whereas many religious minorities in Iraq, who made up about 3 percent of the population of Iraq in 2003, have fled to other areas in Iraq or to other countries, where they reflect a disproportionately high percentage of registered Iraqi refugees;

Whereas the flight of such refugees has substantially diminished their numbers in Iraq, and few show signs of returning to Iraq;

Whereas approximately 1,400,000 Christians were estimated to have lived in Iraq as of 2003, including Chaldean Catholics, Assyrian Orthodox, Assyrian Church of the East, Syriac Catholics, Syriac Orthodox, Armenians (Catholic and Orthodox), Protestants, and Evangelicals;

Whereas it is widely reported that only 500,000 to 700,000 indigenous Christians remain in Iraq as of 2009;

Whereas the Sabeen Mandaean community in Iraq reports that almost 90 percent of the members of that community either fled Iraq or have been killed, leaving only about 3,500 to 5,000 Mandeans in Iraq as of 2009;

Whereas the Yazidi community in Iraq reportedly now numbers about 500,000, a decrease from about 700,000 in 2005;

Whereas the Baha'i faith, estimated to have only 2,000 adherents in Iraq, remains prohibited in Iraq under a 1970 law;

Whereas the ancient and once-large Jewish community in Iraq now numbers fewer than 10, and they essentially live in hiding;

Whereas in 2008, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that approximately 221,000 Iraqis returned to their areas of origin in Iraq, the vast majority of whom settled into neighborhoods or governorates controlled by members of their own religious community;

Whereas many of these returnees reported returning because of difficult economic conditions in their countries of asylum, principally Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon; and

Whereas Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, and Yazidis are not believed to be among these returnees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States remains deeply concerned about the plight of vulnerable religious and ethnic minorities of Iraq and is particularly concerned for the Chaldeans, Syrians, Assyrians, and other Christians, Sabeen Mandeans, Yazidis, Baha'is, Jews, and Muslim ethnic minorities, the Shabak and Turkomen, and other religious and ethnic minorities of Iraq;

(2) the United States Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq should urge the Government of Iraq to enhance security at places of worship in Iraq, particularly where religious minorities are known to be at risk;

(3) the United States Government should continue to work with the Government of Iraq to—

(A) urgently train and deploy into the Iraqi police and security forces members of vulnerable minority communities in Iraq, including in Nineveh and other areas in which religious minorities are located, who are as representative as possible of those communities; and

(B) ensure that members of such communities—

(i) suffer no discrimination in recruitment, employment, or advancement in the Iraqi police and security forces; and

(ii) while employed in the Iraqi police and security forces, be assigned to their locations of origin, rather than being transferred to other areas;

(4) the Government of Iraq should, with the assistance of the United States Government—

(A) ensure that the upcoming national elections in Iraq are safe, fair, and free of intimidation and violence so that all Iraqis, including religious minorities, can participate in the elections; and

(B) permit and facilitate election monitoring by experts from local and international nongovernmental organizations, the international community, and the United Nations, particularly in minority areas;

(5) the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan regional government should work towards a peaceful and timely resolution of disputes over territories;

(6) the United States Government and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq should urge the Government of Iraq to work with minority communities and their representatives to develop measures to implement Article 125 of the Iraq Constitution, which guarantees “the administrative, political, cultural, and educational rights of the various nationalities, such as Turkomen, Chaldeans, Assyrians, and all the other constituents” in Nineveh and other areas where these groups are present;

(7) the Government of Iraq should take affirmative measures to reverse the legal, political, and economic marginalization of religious minorities in Iraq;

(8) the United States Government should direct assistance to projects that develop the ability of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq to organize themselves civically and politically to effectively convey their concerns to government;

(9) the United States Government should continue to fund capacity-building programs for the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights, the independent national Human Rights Commission, and a new independent minorities committee whose membership is selected by minority communities of Iraq;

(10) the Government of Iraq should direct the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights to investigate and issue a public report on abuses against and the marginalization of minority communities in Iraq and make recommendations to address such abuses;

(11) the Government of Iraq should, with the assistance of the United States Government and international organizations, help ensure that displaced Iraqis considering return to Iraq have the proper information needed to make informed decisions regarding such return; and

(12) the United States Government and international organizations should continue to work with the Government of Iraq to develop the legal framework necessary to address property disputes resulting when displaced Iraqis attempt to return to their homes in Iraq.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I submit, with Senators BROWNBACK and

DURBIN, a resolution expressing the concerns of the Senate over the plight of religious minorities in Iraq and calling on our government, the government of Iraq and the United Nations Mission in Iraq to take a series of steps designed to alleviate the dangers that members of these minority groups are confronting. Regardless of our position on the wisdom of the Iraq war, we can all acknowledge a tragic consequence of that war: the widespread persecution of religious minorities.

The statistics are chilling: of approximately 1.4 million Christians of various denominations living in Iraq in 2003, only 500,000 to 700,000 remain. Another minority group, the Sabeen Mandeans, has seen its population decline by more than 90 percent. Iraq's Jewish community, once one of the largest in the Arab world, has almost ceased to exist.

What has happened to these hundreds of thousands? Many have fled Iraq; my own hometown of Detroit, long home to a large community of Christian immigrants from Iraq, knows firsthand the challenges for families abandoning their generations-long home for a strange new country.

Others have not had that opportunity. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reports that members of religious minorities “have experienced targeted intimidation and violence, including killings, beatings, abductions, and rapes, forced conversions, forced marriages, forced displacement from their homes and businesses, and violent attacks on their houses of worship and religious leaders.” Leaders and members of these minority groups have been kidnapped, assassinated or forcibly removed from their homes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that in 2008, there were an estimated 2.8 million internally displaced persons living in Iraq. Of that 2.8 million, nearly two out of three reported fleeing their home because of a direct threat to their lives, and, of that number, almost nine out of ten said they were targeted because of their ethnic or religious identity.

While violence has declined in Iraq overall, religious minorities continue to be the targets of violence and intimidation. Members of many minority groups who have fled other parts of the country have settled in the north, only to find themselves living in some of the most unstable and violent regions of Iraq.

Our resolution addresses this tragedy in several ways. It states the sense of the Senate that the fate of Iraqi religious minorities is a matter of grave concern. It calls on the U.S. government and the U.N. to urge Iraq's government to increase security at places of worship, particularly where members of religious minorities are known to face risks. It calls for the integration of regional and religious minorities into the Iraqi security forces, and for those minority members to be stationed within their own communities.

It calls on the Iraqi government to ensure that minority citizens can participate in upcoming elections, and to enforce its constitution, which guarantees "the administrative, political, cultural, and educational rights" of minorities. And it urges a series of steps to ensure that development aid and other forms of support flow to minority communities.

I encourage the administration and the United Nations to address these steps without delay. I hope our fellow senators will join with Senator BROWNBACK, Senator DURBIN and me to voice the sense of the Senate on this important matter.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2700. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2701. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2702. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2700. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 5 the following:

SEC. 6. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds as follows:

(1) There has been concern expressed by some across our Nation, including on the Nation's airwaves, regarding whether Congress has the constitutional authority to legislate national health care reform.

(2) Certain citizens, commentators, and public officials have questioned whether the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States precludes the Federal Government from providing related health care benefits to its people.

(3) Numerous State legislative bodies have passed resolutions raising questions regarding the scope of the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the constitutionality of certain Federal programs.

(4) The Federal Government has a long and successful history of providing health care benefits to its citizens through Federal programs.

(5) Among other Federal initiatives, in 1930, Congress established the Veterans Administration, an entity that provided Federal benefits, including Federal health care benefits, to veterans of the Armed Forces, and the Veterans Administration was later merged into the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(6) In 1954, Congress established the Indian Health Service to provide medical and public

health services to members of federally-recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

(7) In 1956 and 1966, respectively, Congress passed the Dependents' Medical Care Act (70 Stat. 250) and the Military Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966 (Public Law 89-614; 80 Stat. 862) in order to expand coverage to military personnel and dependents, and these programs were later merged into the TRICARE program, which provides health benefits for military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents.

(8) In 1965, the United States established the Medicare program to provide Federal health care benefits to United States citizens over the age of 65.

(9) In 1965, the United States established the Medicaid program to provide Federal health care benefits to individuals at, near, or below the Federal poverty line.

(10) In 1997, the United States established the State Children's Health Insurance Program to provide health insurance to certain children in families above the Federal poverty line.

(11) In 2009, the United States expanded the State Children's Health Insurance Program to cover an additional 4,000,000 children.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the following Federal benefit programs are in direct violation of the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and should be terminated as soon as practicable: the Veterans Health Administration benefit programs, the Indian Health Service, TRICARE, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

SA 2701. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . 2-YEAR EXTENSION OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT RULES FOR CERTAIN DISASTER AREAS.

Section 1400N(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "January 1, 2011" and inserting "January 1, 2013".

SA 2702. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 5 the following:

SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED.

No funds appropriated under title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252), as amended by this Act, shall be allocated to the following Federal benefit programs:

(1) The Veterans Health Administration benefit programs.

(2) The Indian Health Service.

(3) TRICARE.

(4) Medicare.

(5) Medicaid.

(6) The Children's Health Insurance Program.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, on behalf of our distinguished majority

leader, I have been asked to do what is called wrap-up.

As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, October 27, the vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 470 occur at 2:20 p.m., and that the 5 minutes immediately prior to the vote be available to Senator BYRD; further, that the other provisions of the previous order remain in effect; that upon confirmation and the Senate resuming legislative session, the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, and that the time be equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that at 5:30 p.m. there be 30 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3548, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that at 6 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1929, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1929) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1929) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1929

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration", approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-66, is amended by striking "October 31, 2009" each place it appears and inserting "April 30, 2010".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 30, 2009.